

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended): An inflatable cellular cushioning article having a plurality of inflatable chambers with each chamber comprising a plurality of inflatable cells connected in series with one another, the article being made from a first multilayer film having a unit weight of from 20 to 250 grams per square meter sealed to itself or a second film having a unit weight of from 20 to 250 grams per square meter, wherein the first and second films each comprise an outer seal layer, a gas barrier layer, and a tie layer between the seal layer and the gas barrier layer, with the tie layer comprising an anhydride modified olefin polymer containing anhydride at a level of at least 150 ppm, based on the weight of the modified olefin polymer, wherein the gas barrier layer [comprises a] consists essentially of at least one barrier polymer selected from the group consisting of polyamide, hydrolyzed ethylene/vinyl acetate copolymer, polyacrylonitrile, and polycycloolefin, with the at least one barrier polymer comprising polymer which crystallizes upon aging and the inflatable cellular cushioning product has been aged for a temperature and time to ensure that the crystallinity of the polymer in the in the gas barrier layer is substantially complete.

Claim 2 (currently amended): An inflatable cellular cushioning article having a plurality of inflatable chambers with each chamber comprising a plurality of inflatable cells connected in series with one another, the inflatable cells having a maximum lay flat dimension of from 1 to 3 inches, the article being made from a first multilayer film having a unit weight of from 20 to 70 grams per square meter sealed to itself or a second multilayer film having a unit weight of from

20 to 70 grams per square meter, wherein the first and second films each comprise an outer seal layer, a gas barrier layer, and a tie layer between the seal layer and the gas barrier layer, the article exhibiting a failure pressure of at least 7 psi, wherein the gas barrier layer [comprises a] consists essentially of at least one barrier polymer selected from the group consisting of polyamide, hydrolyzed ethylene/vinyl acetate copolymer, polyacrylonitrile, and polycycloolefin, with the at least one barrier polymer comprising polymer which crystallizes upon aging and the inflatable cellular cushioning product has been aged for a temperature and time to ensure that the crystallinity of the polymer in the in the gas barrier layer is substantially complete.

Claim 3 (currently amended): An inflatable cellular cushioning article having a plurality of inflatable chambers with each chamber comprising a plurality of inflatable cells connected in series with one another, the inflatable cells having a maximum lay flat dimension of from 3 inches to 6 inches, the article being made from a first multilayer film having a unit weight of from 60 to 250 grams per square meter sealed to itself or a second multilayer film having a unit weight of from 60 to 250 grams per square meter, wherein the first and second films each comprise an outer seal layer, a gas barrier layer, and a tie layer between the seal layer and the gas barrier layer, the article exhibiting a failure pressure of at least 7 psi, wherein the gas barrier layer [comprises a] consists essentially of at least one barrier polymer selected from the group consisting of polyamide, hydrolyzed ethylene/vinyl acetate copolymer, polyacrylonitrile, and polycycloolefin, with the at least one barrier polymer comprising polymer which crystallizes upon aging and the inflatable cellular cushioning product has been aged for a temperature and

time to ensure that the crystallinity of the polymer in the in the gas barrier layer is substantially complete.

Claim 4 (currently amended): An inflatable cellular cushioning article having a plurality of inflatable chambers with each chamber comprising a plurality of inflatable cells connected in series with one another, the inflatable cells having a maximum dimension of from 1 to 3 inches, the article being made from a first multilayer film having a unit weight of from 20 to 70 grams per square meter sealed to itself or a second multilayer film having a unit weight of from 20 to 70 grams per square meter, wherein the first and second films each comprise an outer seal layer, a gas barrier layer, and a tie layer between the seal layer and the gas barrier layer, the article being capable of withstanding inflation to an internal pressure of 3 psi measured at 23°C and 1 atmosphere ambient pressure with the resulting inflated article being subjected to a reduced ambient pressure of 0.542 atmosphere for a period of 5 minutes at a temperature of 23°C, without film failure, seal failure, or delamination of film layers from one another, wherein the gas barrier layer [comprises a] consists essentially of at least one barrier polymer selected from the group consisting of polyamide, hydrolyzed ethylene/vinyl acetate copolymer, polyacrylonitrile, and polycycloolefin, with the at least one barrier polymer comprising polymer which crystallizes upon aging and the inflatable cellular cushioning product has been aged for a temperature and time to ensure that the crystallinity of the polymer in the in the gas barrier layer is substantially complete.

Claim 5 (currently amended): An inflatable cellular cushioning article having a plurality of inflatable chambers with each chamber comprising a plurality of inflatable cells connected in series with one another, the inflatable cells having a maximum dimension of from 3 inches to 6 inches, the article being made from a first multilayer film having a unit weight of from 60 to 250 grams per square meter sealed to itself or a second multilayer film having a unit weight of from 60 to 250 grams per square meter, wherein the first and second films each comprise an outer seal layer, a gas barrier layer, and a tie layer between the seal layer and the gas barrier layer, the article being capable of withstanding inflation to an internal pressure of 3 psi measured at 23°C and 1 atmosphere ambient pressure with the resulting inflated article being subjected to a reduced ambient pressure of 0.542 atmosphere for a period of 5 minutes at a temperature of 23°C, without film failure, seal failure, or delamination of film layers from one another, wherein the gas barrier layer [comprises a] consists essentially of at least one barrier polymer selected from the group consisting of polyamide, hydrolyzed ethylene/vinyl acetate copolymer, polyacrylonitrile, and polycycloolefin, with the at least one barrier polymer comprising polymer which crystallizes upon aging and the inflatable cellular cushioning product has been aged for a temperature and time to ensure that the crystallinity of the polymer in the in the gas barrier layer is substantially complete.

Claim 6 (currently amended): An inflatable cellular cushioning article having a plurality of inflatable chambers with each chamber comprising a plurality of inflatable cells connected in series with one another, the inflatable cells having a maximum dimension of from 1 to 3 inches, the article being made from a first multilayer film having a unit weight of from 20 to 70 grams

per square meter sealed to itself or a second multilayer film having a unit weight of from 20 to 70 grams per square meter, wherein the first and second films are multilayer films each having a seal layer, a gas barrier layer, and a tie layer between the seal layer and the gas barrier layer, the article being capable of withstanding inflation to an internal pressure of 3 psi measured at 23°C and 1 atmosphere ambient pressure with the resulting inflated article being subjected a load of 0.1 psi for a period of 7 days at a temperature of 140°F, without film failure, seal failure, or delamination of film layers from one another, wherein the gas barrier layer [comprises a] consists essentially of at least one barrier polymer selected from the group consisting of polyamide, hydrolyzed ethylene/vinyl acetate copolymer, polyacrylonitrile, and polycycloolefin, with the at least one barrier polymer comprising polymer which crystallizes upon aging and the inflatable cellular cushioning product has been aged for a temperature and time to ensure that the crystallinity of the polymer in the in the gas barrier layer is substantially complete.

Claim 7 (currently amended): An inflatable cellular cushioning article having a plurality of inflatable chambers with each chamber comprising a plurality of inflatable cells connected in series with one another, the inflatable cells having a maximum dimension of from 3 inches to 6 inches, the article being made from a first multilayer film having a unit weight of from 60 to 250 grams per square meter sealed to itself or a second multilayer film having a unit weight of from 60 to 250 grams per square meter, wherein the first and second films are multilayer films each having a seal layer, a gas barrier layer, and a tie layer between the seal layer and the gas barrier layer, the article being capable of withstanding inflation to an internal pressure of 3 psi

measured at 23°C and 1 atmosphere ambient pressure with the resulting inflated article being subjected a load of 0.1 psi for a period of 7 days at a temperature of 140°F, without film failure, seal failure, or delamination of film layers from one another, wherein the gas barrier layer [comprises a] consists essentially of at least one barrier polymer selected from the group consisting of polyamide, hydrolyzed ethylene/vinyl acetate copolymer, polyacrylonitrile, and polycycloolefin, with the at least one barrier polymer comprising polymer which crystallizes upon aging and the inflatable cellular cushioning product has been aged for a temperature and time to ensure that the crystallinity of the polymer in the in the gas barrier layer is substantially complete.

Claim 8 (currently amended): An inflatable cellular cushioning article having a plurality of inflatable chambers with each chamber comprising a plurality of inflatable cells connected in series with one another, the inflatable cells having a maximum dimension of from 1 to 3 inches, the article being made from a first multilayer film having a unit weight of from 20 to 70 grams per square meter sealed to itself or a second multilayer film having a unit weight of from 20 to 70 grams per square meter, wherein the first and second films each comprise an outer seal layer, a gas barrier layer, and a tie layer between the seal layer and the gas barrier layer, the article being capable of withstanding an internal inflation pressure of 3 psi, measured at 23°C and 1 atmosphere ambient pressure, for a period of 4 hours at a temperature of 140°F, without film failure, seal failure, or delamination of film layers from one another, wherein the gas barrier layer [comprises a] consists essentially of at least one barrier polymer selected from the group

consisting of polyamide, hydrolyzed ethylene/vinyl acetate copolymer, polyacrylonitrile, and polycycloolefin, with the at least one barrier polymer comprising polymer which crystallizes upon aging and the inflatable cellular cushioning product has been aged for a temperature and time to ensure that the crystallinity of the polymer in the in the gas barrier layer is substantially complete.

Claim 9 (currently amended): An inflatable cellular cushioning article having a plurality of inflatable chambers with each chamber comprising a plurality of inflatable cells connected in series with one another, the inflatable cells having a maximum dimension of from 3 to 6 inches, the article being made from a first multilayer film having a unit weight of from 60 to 250 grams per square meter sealed to itself or a second multilayer film having a unit weight of from 60 to 250 grams per square meter, wherein the first and second films each comprise an outer seal layer, a gas barrier layer, and a tie layer between the seal layer and the gas barrier layer, the article being capable of withstanding an internal inflation pressure of 3 psi, measured at 23°C and 1 atmosphere ambient pressure, for a period of 4 hours at a temperature of 140°F, without film failure, seal failure, or delamination of film layers from one another, wherein the gas barrier layer [comprises a] consists essentially of at least one barrier polymer selected from the group consisting of polyamide, hydrolyzed ethylene/vinyl acetate copolymer, polyacrylonitrile, and polycycloolefin, with the at least one barrier polymer comprising polymer which crystallizes upon aging and the inflatable cellular cushioning product has been aged for a temperature and time to ensure that the crystallinity of the polymer in the in the gas barrier layer is substantially complete.

Claim 10 (cancelled)

Claim 11 (currently amended): The inflatable cellular cushioning article according to Claim [8] 1, wherein the tie layer comprises an anhydride modified ethylene/C₄₋₁₀ alpha-olefin copolymer.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The inflatable cellular cushioning article according to Claim [8] 1, wherein the seal layer of the first and second films comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting homogeneous ethylene/alpha-olefin copolymer, very low density polyethylene, low density polyethylene, and linear low density polyethylene.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The inflatable cellular cushioning article according to Claim [8] 1, wherein the first film has first and second outer layers, a central gas barrier layer, a first tie layer between the first outer layer and the gas barrier layer, and a second tie layer between the gas barrier layer and the second outer layer.

Claim 14 (original): The inflatable cellular cushioning article according to Claim 13, wherein the first and second outer layers of the first film have the same layer thickness and have the same polymeric composition, and the first and second tie layers of the first film have the same layer thickness and the same polymeric composition.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The inflatable cellular cushioning article according to claim [8] 1, wherein the article comprises the first film heat sealed to the second film.

Claim 16 (original): The inflatable cellular cushioning article according to Claim 15, wherein:

the first film has first and second outer layers, a central gas barrier layer, a first tie layer between the first outer layer and the gas barrier layer, and a second tie layer between the gas barrier layer and the second outer layer; and

the second film has an first and second outer layers, a central gas barrier layer, a first tie layer between the first outer layer and the gas barrier layer, and a second tie layer between the gas barrier layer and the second outer layer.

Claim 17 (original): The inflatable cellular cushioning article according to Claim 16, wherein

the first and second outer layers of the first film have the same layer thickness and have the same polymeric composition, and the first and second tie layers of the first film have the same layer thickness and the same polymeric composition; and

the first and second outer layers of the second film have the same layer thickness and have the same polymeric composition, and the first and second tie layers of the second film have the same layer thickness and the same polymeric composition.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The inflatable cellular cushioning article according to Claim [8] 1, wherein the first film has a thickness of from 1 mil to 2 mils and the second film has a thickness of from 1 mil to 2 mils.

Claim 19 (currently amended): The inflatable cellular cushioning article according to Claim [8] 1, wherein the tie layer comprises anhydride modified polyolefin.

Claim 20 (currently amended): The inflatable cellular cushioning article according to Claim [8] 1, wherein the tie layer comprises an anhydride modified ethylene/C₄₋₈ copolymer having an anhydride content of at least 160 ppm as determined by pyrolysis GCMS.

Claim 21 (original): The inflatable cellular cushioning article according to Claim 20, wherein the anhydride modified polyolefin comprises anhydride modified linear low density polyethylene having an anhydride content of at least 180 ppm as determined by pyrolysis GCMS.

Claim 22 (currently amended): The inflatable cellular cushioning article according to Claim [8] 1, wherein the chambers extend transversely from an closed inflation manifold which extends along a machine direction.

Claim 23 (currently amended): The inflatable cellular cushioning article according to Claim [8] 1, wherein the chambers extend transversely from an open skirt which extends along a machine direction.

Claim 24 (currently amended): The inflatable cellular cushioning article according to Claim [8] 1, wherein each chamber comprises from 3 to 40 cells.

Claim 25 (currently amended): The inflatable cellular cushioning article according to Claim [8] 1, wherein the cells have a major uninflated axis which has a length of from 0.5 inch to 2.5 inches.

Claim 26 (new): An inflatable cellular cushioning article having a plurality of inflatable chambers with each chamber comprising a plurality of inflatable cells connected in series with one another, the article being made from a first multilayer film having a unit weight of from 20 to 250 grams per square meter sealed to itself or a second film having a unit weight of from 20 to 250 grams per square meter, wherein the first and second films each comprise an outer seal layer, a gas barrier layer, and a tie layer between the seal layer and the gas barrier layer, with the tie layer comprising an anhydride modified olefin polymer containing anhydride at a level of from 150 to 1000 ppm, based on the weight of the modified olefin polymer, wherein the gas barrier layer comprises a polymer which crystallizes upon aging and the inflatable cellular cushioning product has been aged for a temperature and time to ensure that the crystallinity of the polymer in the in the gas barrier layer is substantially complete.